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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/229,178 01/13/99 ZEDNIK J 10077-1

QM02/1105

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3748

DATE MAILED:

11/05/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/229,178

Applicant(s)
Zednik et al

Examiner
Hoang Nguyen

Group Art Unit
3748



☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 2

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

Art Unit: 3748

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-7, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Argent Marine Operations Inc. (Boylston) in view of U.S. 4276927 (Foust). Boylston discloses a concept of using a ship to carry liquid LNG, a system having a booster pump, and vaporizer to gasify the LNG then ship the gas to the onshore facilities. Boylston does not disclose the concept of using sea water to vaporize the liquid LNG through a heat exchanger. Foust is relied upon to disclose that it's well known to use a plate type heat exchanger to use the ocean water heat to vaporize the liquefied natural gas (column 1). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to use the heat exchanger of Foust in place of the heat exchanger of Boylston to vaporize the liquid LNG as taught by Foust because both heat exchanger are functionally equivalent and because the heat from the sea water is inexpensive energy source. Regarding claims 3-4, 7, it would have been a matter of design choice for a person having engineering skill in the art to elect the pressure and the depth as claimed for the purpose of achieving appropriate temperature.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


Art Unit: 3748

Clark, Jr., Avery, Ser Vaas, and Karig disclose power plants using heat from seawater as an energy source.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-3477. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday--Thursday from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Denion, can be reached on (703)-308-2623. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-7763.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.



11/21/99

HOANG NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3748

Hoang Minh Nguyen
November 1, 1999